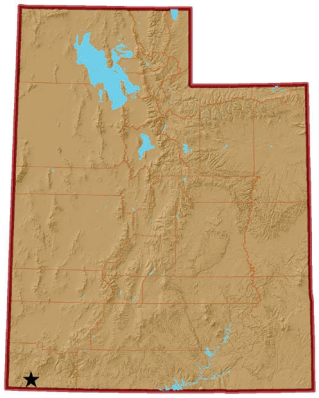
UTAH QUALITY GROWTH COMMISSION

Santa Clara City Arboretum Restoration

Description: In recent years the Robert Shepherd Santa Clara City Arboretum has been overtaken by invasive species and damaged by fire. Santa Clara City plans to eradicate non-native species and showcase native plants in the Arboretum. The Arboretum will become an example for waterwise landscaping and water conservation in southwestern Utah as well as an education resource for native vegetation.

Location: The Arboretum is located at the southeast end of the Tuacahn Wash in Santa Clara City.

Acreage: 26.5 acres



Grant funding: $30,000

Total Project Cost: $65,000

Grant Awarded: October 2004

Partners: Santa Clara City

Local Support: Santa Clara City Mayor and Council, Santa Clara City, Friends of the Santa Clara City Arboretum Committee, St George City Leisure Services, USU Extension Service, BLM Arizona Strip Office, Washington County Water Conservancy District

Conservation Easement Held by: The property is owned by Santa Clara City and maintained as a city park.

Public Benefits

Educational: The Santa Clara City Arboretum hopes to become a model for water conservation in southwestern Utah. The Arboretum is working to eradicate the tamarisk trees that have overtaken the area along the stream and choked out the native willows and cottonwood trees. Once the project is complete it will become not only a place to enjoy, but an educational resource as well. Native plants will be showcased in a manner that will be attractive to homeowners in the surrounding area, interesting to desert enthusiasts, and informative to students of native plants.

Wildlife Habitat: From a sandy upland bench, along a riparian area lining a spring-fed stream, to a rugged display of lava, the Arboretum provides a multitude of habitat in a unique and varied environment. The Arboretum is home to a variety of birds (quail, roadrunners, woodpeckers, hawks, mocking birds, the occasional eagle, and more), cotton tail and jack rabbits, coyotes, fox, snakes, and racoons.

Water Quality: Eradicating non-native species, such as the tamarisk, will allow the spring-fed stream on the property to retain more water year round. It also wiil allow the cottonwoods and willows to return to the stream bank, further enhancing the riparian areas.